

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No. : 10/804,186 Confirmation No. : 6767
First Named : Werner DOETSCH
Inventor
Filed : March 19, 2004
TC/A.U. : 1797
Examiner : Monzer R. Chorbaji

Docket No. : 101771.53337US
Customer No. : 23911

Title : Stabilized Hydrogen Peroxide

REPLY TO OFFICE ACTION

Mail Stop AMENDMENT
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This is a Reply to the Office Action mailed October 15, 2009 in the above-identified patent application.

Obviousness Rejections

The rejection of claims 4, 7 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Grimberg et al., US 5,609,821 and Feasey et al., US 5,130,053; and the rejection of claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Grimberg et al. and Feasey et al. in view of Vogele et al., US 4,104,024, are each respectfully traversed.

The presently claimed invention is a method of sterilizing a foodstuff packaging material by passing the packaging material through a dip bath liquid comprising hydrogen peroxide and 200-500 ppm of a foodstuff-compatible phosphonic acid. As claimed, the dip bath liquid is one which has previously been used to sterilize the packaging material. This previous use of the dip bath liquid results in contamination in the dip bath liquid in the form of packaging material residues. Surprisingly, however, Applicants have discovered that such contaminated hydrogen peroxide treated with 200-500 ppm of the phosphonic